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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

BEDLINGTONSHIRE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1950

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

Printed by G. Robinson & Co., Blyth & Bedlington.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1950

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present to you, the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health, concerning the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for 1950.

Although new housing estates have sprung up in different parts of the shire, housing is still priority number one. The relief obtained from overcrowding by utilising Hartford Camp has been overshadowed by the fact that it is extremely doubtful whether these huts will stand up to another winter, in spite of the fact that they were expected to last for another three years. Special consideration must be given to this problem. The sickness rate at the camp is not excessive yet, but the effects of dampness due to rain, and condensation, is bound to make itself evident, especially to children in the form of rheumatism and chest complaints.

Apart from this problem there remains the one of sub-standard property. There are still over 1,200 houses which are beyond repair at reasonable cost. Efforts are being made to have property repaired whenever possible.

Housing problems are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this report.

The death rate rose from 11.02 per 1,000 estimated population in 1949 to 11.87 in 1950.

The birth rate rose from 18.24 per 1,000 estimated population to 19.4. This is a remarkable increase, being 3.6 per 1,000 above the average for England and Wales and 2.7 per 1,000 above the average for towns of similar population.

The Infantile Mortality Rate rose from 38.83 per 1,000 live births to 50.88. There were 29 deaths of infants under one year compared with 20 in 1949. This is discussed more fully in another part of the report.

The low incidence of epidemic disease of 1949 was not maintained in 1950. 944 cases of infectious disease were notified compared with the 320 cases of 1949. The increase was mainly due to 540 cases of measles and 133 cases of whooping cough (with 2 deaths).

The other infectious diseases remained much the same as 1949. Twenty-four cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred—almost all the cases were from Cambois. There was one case of diphtheria (not immunised).

I would like to thank the staff of the Health Department for the work they have done and the officials of the other departments for their unfailing courtesy at all times.

I am, Your obedient servant,

A. DONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health -	Alexander Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector - - - - and Meat and Foods Inspector - - -	R. W. Cowans, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.
Sanitary Inspector (Additional) - - -	O. B. Dodds, Cert.S.I.B.
Health Department Clerk - - - - - - - -	J. Hostler
Health Department Typist - - - - - - -	Miss U. Brown
Offices - - - - - - - - -	Front Street, Bedlington
Telephone No. - - - - - - - - -	Bedlington 2121

STATISTICS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	9,025.784
Registrar General's Estimate of the Resident Population mid 1950	28,790
Rateable Value	£109,154
Penny Rate Produces	£411
Number of Inhabited Houses	8,800

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	263	272	535
Illegitimate	12	12	24
Totals	275	284	559

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 19.4

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	4	1	5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births 8,86

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.17

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
176	166	342

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.87

Deaths over 65 years

Male	Female	Total
108	105	213

Death from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list).

There were no maternal deaths in Bedlington.

Infant Mortality

Death of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	13	15	28
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Totals	13	16	29

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births 51.88

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 52.3

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 41.6

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years	—	4	1	4	4	1	1	1	1	—
No. of Deaths of Infants under 1 year	30	21	30	30	26	31	21	17	20	29
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	70.8	50.7	58.94	52.08	54.05	58.2	34.09	33.46	38.83	51.88

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1950

It is extremely disappointing to record an increase of 9 infant deaths over the figure for 1949. The total deaths were 29. Fifteen of these died within one month.

The infantile mortality rate was 51.88 per 1,000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate 26.8 per 1,000 live births. It was difficult to decide what caused this alarming increase.

In 14 of the cases the deaths occurred at home—i.e., roughly 50%. The other 50% occurred in hospital.

10 neonatal deaths occurred in hospital and 5 at home. This is not unexpected as difficult cases and premature cases are dealt with in hospital as far as possible.

Deaths which may be said to have been unavoidable, were:—

Disease	At Home	In Hospital	Total
Prematurity	2	6	8
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	1
Fibrocystic Disease of Pancreas	1	—	1
Hydrops Foetalis	—	1	1
Uraemia	—	1	1
Encephalitis	—	1	1
Birth Injury	—	1	1
Myelomeningocoele	—	1	1
	4	11	15

Deaths which may be said to have been avoidable under ideal circumstances:—

Disease	At Home	In Hospital	Total
Convulsions	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	2	—	2
Broncho Pneumonia	5	—	5
Pneumonia (one aspiration)	2	—	2
Septicaemia	—	2	2
Empyema	—	1	1
Haemolytic Anaemia	—	1	1
	10	4	14

Social and environmental conditions including sub-standard housing did not contribute in any degree to the increase. Cases of pneumonia, whooping cough, etc., occurred in good and bad houses and good and bad families with apparently no predilection for the bad.

Five of the deaths were due to congenital conditions and this is an extremely high proportion—four more than last year. Deaths from prematurity were eight in 1950—two more than 1949.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1950

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total under 1 yr.
Prematurity	7	1	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Broncho-Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia (one aspiration)	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Fibrocystic Disease of Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Septicaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Staphylococcal Septicaemia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrops Foetalis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemolytic Anaemia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Empyema	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Birth Injury	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Uraemia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Myelomeningocoele	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	9	3	—	3	15	7	6	1	—	29

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950

Code No.	Disease	M.	F.
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2
055.4	Septicaemia (unspecified)	1	—
056	Whooping Cough	1	1
141	Malignant Neoplasm of Tongue	1	—
148	,, ,, of Pharynx	1	—
150	,, ,, of Oesophagus	1	—
151	,, ,, of Stomach	5	7
153	,, ,, of Large Intestine	6	—
154	,, ,, of Rectum	2	1
155	,, ,, of Biliary Passages	1	—
157	,, ,, of Pancreas	—	2
160	,, ,, of Nose	1	—
162	,, ,, of Bronchus	2	—
163	,, ,, of Lung	1	—
170	,, ,, of Breast	—	3
171	,, ,, of Cervix Uteri	—	1
174	,, ,, of Uterus	—	2
176	,, ,, of Vagina	—	1
177	,, ,, of Prostate	4	—
180	,, ,, of Kidney	—	1
181	,, ,, of Bladder	—	2
191	,, ,, of Skin	1	—
201	Hodgkins Disease	1	—
204	Lymphatic Leukaemia	2	—
260	Diabetis Mellitus	—	2
274	Addison's Disease	—	1
290	Pernicious Anaemia	1	2
330	Subarachnoidd Haemorrhage	—	1
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage	16	16
332	Cerebral Thrombosis	4	6
343	Encephalitis	—	1
350	Paralysis Agitans	1	—
410	Mitral Stenosis	—	2
420	Arteriosclerosis and Coronary Disease	—	2
420.2	Angina Pectoris	1	—
421.1	Aortic Incompetence	1	1
422	Myocardial Degeneration	55	56
422.1	Myocardial Deg. with Arterio Sclerosis	1	—
433.1	Auricular Fibrillation	—	1
434.2	Left Ventricular Failure	1	—
440	Benign Hypertension	—	1

Code No.	Disease	M.	F.
441	Malignant Hypertension	2	1
451	Ruptured Aneurysm	1	—
470	Upper Respiratory Catarrh	—	2
480	Influenzal Pneumonia	1	—
490	Lobar Pneumonia	1	—
491	Broncho Pneumonia	1	6
502	Bronchitis	1	1
518	Empyema	1	—
522	Pulmonary Hypostasis	2	2
540	Peptic Ulceration	1	—
550.1	Appendicitis with Peritonitis	1	—
570	Intestinal Obstruction	1	—
570.2	Mesenteric Thrombosis	1	—
587	Pancreatitis	—	1
587.2	Fibrocystic disease of the Pancreas	—	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	1	3
593	Nephritis	—	1
600	Pyelo Nephritis	—	1
602	Calculi of Kidney	—	1
610	Enlarged Prostate	1	—
751	Meningomyelocoele	—	1
754	Congenital Heart Disease	—	1
760.5	Cerebral Haemorrhage and Prematurity	—	1
762.5	Atelectasis with Prematurity	1	—
763	Pneumonia of Newborn	4	3
768	Sepsis of Newborn	—	1
769.5	Prematurity with toxaemia of pregnancy	—	1
770	Haemolytic disease of Newborn	1	1
773.5	Anoxaemia with Prematurity	—	1
774	Prematurity	3	1
780.2	Convulsions	—	1
795	Toxaemia	—	1
E812	Road Accident	1	2
E878	Accidental Poisoning	—	1
E903	Accidental Fall	1	—
E910	Accidental Crushing (Pit)	3	—
E911	Accident (Pit Tub)	1	—
E921	Accidental Inhalation (Food)	1	—
E970	Suicide (Soporific)	—	1
E971	,, (Lysol Poisoning)	1	—
E972	,, (Domestic Gas)	2	1
E975	,, Drowning	—	2
N800	Fracture of Skull	—	1
		176	166

CANCER MORTALITY

Males

	Age Groups									
	0-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total
Malignant Neoplasm of Tongue	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
,, ,, of Pharynx	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
,, ,, of Oesophagus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
,, ,, of Stomach	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	5
,, ,, of Large Intestine ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	6
,, ,, of Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
,, ,, of Biliary Passages	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
,, ,, of Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Nose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
,, ,, of Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
,, ,, of Lung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
,, ,, of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Cervix Uteri ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Vagina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
,, ,, of Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Skin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	1	—	—	1	—	1	6	3	14	26

Females

	Age Groups									
	0-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total
Malignant Neoplasm of Tongue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Pharynx	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Oesophagus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	7
,, ,, of Large Intestine ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
,, ,, of Biliary Passages ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Pancreas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
,, ,, of Nose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Lung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
,, ,, of Cervix Uteri ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
,, ,, of Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
,, ,, of Vagina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
,, ,, of Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, of Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
,, ,, of Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
,, ,, of Skin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	14	20

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	21-35 years	36-45 years	46-65 years	Over 65	Not known	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	7	4	5	26	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	54
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	2	1	10	3	5	1	1	27
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	4	1	1	—	—	1	—	11
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	5	1	—	12
Dysentery	—	1	2	3	2	5	6	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	24
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis Non Paralytic	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	33	65	89	81	69	92	102	4	—	1	—	—	—	4	540
Whooping Cough	15	18	18	28	18	14	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	133
														Total	811

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Diphtheria

The number of notified cases of this disease in 1950 was one. This was a child not immunised against the disease. There were no deaths. The immunisation state of the pre-school and school communities of the shire continues to be good. 82.2% of the children between the ages of 0-15 years have been fully immunised.

Whooping Cough

There were 133 cases of whooping cough notified during 1950. This contrasts with the 12 cases of 1949. Of the 133 notified cases one had received a full course of whooping cough vaccine and two had received full courses of combined diphtheria and pertussis vaccine. There were two deaths from whooping cough.

Measles

There were 540 cases of measles notified during 1950. No deaths resulted.

Scarlet Fever

There were 54 cases of scarlet fever notified during 1950. No deaths resulted.

Dysentery

There were 24 cases of Sonne Dysentery notified between 8/5/50 and 27/7/50.

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

There were three cases of poliomyelitis notified in 1950. Two were classified as paralytic but the residual paralysis was slight. One was non-paralytic.

There were no deaths.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid

No cases were notified.

Diphtheria notifications and deaths in Bedlington during the 10 year period 1941-50:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases	22	19	14	85	64	55	19	5	2	1
Deaths	3*	—	—	3*	7 6*	1*	3*	—	—	—

*Unprotected

Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever notifications 1941-50:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Measles	90	291	226	144	293	194	124	245	228	540
Whooping Cough ...	184	10	45	44	30	45	36	186	12	133
Scarlet Fever ...	21	26	61	61	21	7	10	60	31	54

Analysis of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non Resp.		Resp.		Non Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	4	4	1	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
Total	15	12	7	4	3	2	—	—

The notification of tuberculosis rose from 25 in 1949 to 38 in 1950, but the deaths fell from 14 to 5.

Rehousing of tuberculosis patients has been excellent in this district. Any case where overcrowding exists receives the most serious consideration of the Housing Committee.

The tuberculosis register showed the following distribution of cases at the end of 1950.

Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non Pulmonary
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
67	47	111	16	12	28	139

Deaths and Notifications, Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary for Bedlington, 1941-50:—

Notifications

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
P. Cases	26	14	27	29	22	18	16	19	18	27
Non P. Cases ...	10	7	13	8	14	2	8	10	7	11

Deaths

P. Cases	14	10	12	5	11	11	10	4	13	5
Non P. Cases ...	5	—	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	—

By 1950, overcrowding in Bedlingtonshire had been overcome. This was a great advance where one or two years before very large numbers of families had been living in grossly overcrowded conditions.

It was felt that a start could be made, with real determination, in dealing with sub-standard houses.

Unfortunately, the overcrowding was relieved by making use of huts at Hartford Camp where some 380 families were rehoused.

Hutted camps, especially second hand ones, are rarely satisfactory for a static community, even as a temporary measure. The life of these huts was to have been 5 years, but already some have had to be vacated and closed, because they were unfit for habitation, and the cost of repairs far exceeded their value.

Complaints have been numerous regarding dampness and these huts have been inspected with great care by members of the Health Department. The main faults of the huts are:—

(1) Excessive condensation. This was unable to be remedied because the huts were divided into two, three and four rooms, only one of which had a heating unit. The other rooms could not be kept dry; electric fires being forbidden because the Camp was carrying its maximum electricity load.

(2) Badly fitting window frames allowed rain to enter into rooms.

(3) Leaking roofs were common even after the roofs had been treated with pitch.

(4) Certain parts of the camp were low-lying and rising dampness occurred; and on at least one occasion casual water appeared in the living room. It may be that much of the dampness and discomfort from leaking roofs was due to the excessively wet autumn and winter of 1950, but surely it is the tenant's right to expect to be maintained in tolerably dry conditions.

These huts will not last 5 years, for, if they are blessed with summer sunshine in 1951, they will suffer more in the following winter because of the warping of the wood of the doors, windows, floors and roofs.

The sickness in this community has not been excessive but I strongly recommend that these tenants be rehoused at the earliest possible opportunity.

In 1949 a survey of the sub-standard property in the shire revealed that over 1,500 houses could be condemned out of hand. There still remains the need for some 1,500 new houses in spite of the progress of the new housing estates.

Can these be achieved within the income of the District Council at an economic figure ? Where is the point at which the interests of health and social progress meets economy and household income?

As one primarily interested in the health of the community I must disregard the matter of economy because I believe that the eradication of defective property is probably the most important factor in preventive medicine today. I must press for more houses which admit fresh air and sunshine and which are free from dampness and its attendant evils. It will cost the ratepayers more money and the tenants also, but I have no doubt that in the long run these houses will prove themselves to have been well worth the cost.

The need to use the 1949 Housing Act with a view to preserving houses which could be made fit for habitation is always kept in mind. However, so much property exists in the shire which has been neglected for so many years that hope of saving even part of it is forlorn indeed.

Housing, with its attendant services, e.g. sewerage and water, gas and electricity, will continue to be one of Bedlingtonshire's main problems for many years to come.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH, 1950

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Births				
Live births	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
Deaths				
All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis including polioencephalitis	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Acute poliomyelitis including polioencephalitis				
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Non-Paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per Million aged 15-44
651 Abortion with sepsis	0.09	7
650, 652 Other abortion	0.05	4
640-649, 670-678. Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0.54	
681 Sepsis of childbirth and the purperium	0.03	
680, 682-689 Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

WATER SUPPLY

The water shortage of the previous year has fortunately not been repeated and the supply of the Tynemouth Water Undertaking has been adequate and of good quality.

In 203 houses where the water supply was from a standpipe in the yard or street a supply has now been installed inside the house with kitchen sink and waste pipe.

There are still some 1,350 houses with an estimated population of 4,725 persons served by common standpipes in back yards or streets. The majority of these are sub-standard houses largely owned by the National Coal Board. Action is still proceeding to have supplies installed into houses where conditions warrant such procedure.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN

	B. Coli. per 100 ml.'s
1 Sample from land spring, Bedlington Woods	Nil
1 Sample from common standpipe, Bedlington Station	Nil
1 Sample from common standpipe, Cambois	1
2 Samples from common standpipe, Choppington, Barrington	2
1 Sample from house tap, Bedlington	Nil
1 Sample from house tap, Cambois	2

SWIMMING BATHS

The Local Authority's open air swimming pool at Humford Woods was open for the full summer period and was once more a popular attraction especially to school children. The water, drawn from the river Blyth, is sand filtered and chlorinated.

Two samples taken for bacteriological examination gave excellent results.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The tidal waters of the rivers Blyth and Wansbeck, the Sleek Burn and the sea continue to receive the untreated sewage of the district. No large sewers or sewage disposal works have been laid.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council houses disinfested ...	7
Number of other houses disinfested ...	11

When brought to the notice of the Local Authority the treatment of verminous premises is carried out by a thorough spraying with D.D.T. liquid insecticide, repeated if necessary.

RATS AND MICE DISINFESTATION

All sewers of the district have been treated twice during the year with good results. Regular attention has been given to refuse tips and all surface infestations including houses, gardens, canteens, food premises, etc., have received treatment as and when required.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, 1950

	Number of Inspections during year	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws	Number of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	Number of Statutory notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory notice	Legal Proceedings
Housing							
Structural defects		631	127	78	291	—	—
Overcrowding	806	85	85	85	—	—	—
Water Supply							
Insufficient		293	293	203	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	513	7	7	7	—	—	—
Drainage							
Insufficient		171	167	167	4	3	—
Defective	395	55	63	55	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences							
Insufficient		5	—	—	4	3	—
Defective	382	168	192	168	—	—	—
Food Premises	120	16	15	15	1	1	—
Shops Acts	43	11	11	11	—	—	—
Dairies	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	402	2	2	1	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	6	6	6	6	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	18	6	6	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	86	9	11	7	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	68	25	25	15	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	476	233	224	220	6	13	—
Offensive Accumulations	15	3	3	2	1	1	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3351	1726	1237	1040	307	21	—

SUB-STANDARD HOUSES

The Council can be justly proud of the manner in which it is tackling the problem of slum property. During the year a further 291 Demolition and Closing Orders were served in respect of sub-standard houses and 20 houses were voluntarily closed on request.

In addition, 41 houses not included in the above figures and comprising Bell's Place and Old Colliery Row were the subject of compulsory purchase orders and demolished to provide what is now a very popular housing site.

On 20th July, 1950, the pre-war Slum Clearance Orders of Netherton, involving 161 houses, were confirmed by the Ministry of Health. Up to that time an attempt had been made to deal with the property by serving 89 of the above Demolition and Closing Orders.

From all these houses 244 families have been removed, the large majority of them into new Council houses. This has been made possible by the Council granting one in three of all Council houses built to the occupiers of such property.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR			
(a) By Local Authority—			
Permanent	245	—	245
Temporary	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons—			
Permanent	—	8	8
Temporary	—	—	—

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR
   (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 631
   (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 481
   (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 110
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES
   Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 78
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS
   (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
      (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... —
      (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—
         (a) By owners ... ... —
         (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —
   (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
      (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... —
      (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
         (a) By owner ... ... —
         (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	171
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (or vacant)	77
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3)	—

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	120
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE	80

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (SEC. 20)

(a) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grants have been received	3
(b) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	1

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1.—Inspection for purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	15	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	71	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	69	86	11	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred: To H.M. Inspector	Referred: By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	1	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	6	-	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	7	—	2	—

There are four outworkers employed by Rema Glove Factory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are 13 registered dairies within the district. Of these 8 retail Tuberculin Tested Milk, 8 Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk, 3 Accredited Milk, 12 Pasteurised Milk, and 3 Sterilised Milk.

Five samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

Ice Cream

There has been no change in the number of ice cream producers in the district. These three premises have been regularly inspected and maintain a very high standard. Two use the heat treatment method of manufacture and one the cold mix process.

19 samples have been taken during the year. Of these 8 were of the first grade, 2 of the second, 2 of the third and 7 of the fourth grade.

Meat Inspection

All meat for consumption in the district is supplied from the Ministry of Food Slaughter House situated in the premises of the Bedlington C.W.S.

The ante-mortem inspection of all animals brought in for slaughter and the post-mortem inspection of all carcases and organs has continued throughout the year.

Hundreds of cottagers' pigs have been slaughtered but none has been examined, because no power is given in existing public health legislation to demand the inspection of such animals. Centralised slaughtering has given a tremendous advantage in safeguarding the health of the consumer by making possible a complete inspection of all meat sold in the district and it is most discouraging to have to exclude such a large section of carcase meat and offal, food which could not possibly be consumed by the person killing the pig.

EXAMINATION OF CARCASES

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed and Inspected	1,057	104	—	3,936	7
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	785	31	—	108	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	74.27%	30.77%	—	2.82%	28.57%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	48	23	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.63%	23.07%	—	—	14.28%

MEAT, ORGANS, ETC., CONDEMNED AND SURRENDERED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Bovine Animals

(a) **For Tuberculosis**

Number of Whole Carcases and Organs ...	2
,, ,, Heads and Tongues	44
,, ,, Lungs	53
,, ,, Hearts	2
,, ,, Livers	8
,, ,, Intestines	2
,, ,, Skirts	3

(b) **Diseases other than Tuberculosis**

Number of Whole Carcases and Organs	Emaciation, 1.
,, ,, Heads and Tongues ...	Actinobacillosis, 6; Abscesses, 2.
,, ,, Lungs	Flukes, 229; Pleurisy, 3; Congestion, 1.
,, ,, Livers	Cirrhosis, whole livers, 465, part livers, 295; Abscesses, 55; Angioma, 2; Bacterial Necrosis, 1.
,, ,, Udders	Induration, 7; Mastitis, 2; Abscesses, 4.
,, ,, Hearts	Pericarditis, 1.
,, ,, Skirts	Abscesses, 1.
,, ,, Stomachs	Abscesses, 1.
,, ,, Spleens	Abscesses, 1.

Weight of Meat Condemned

Because of Disease	1,508 lbs.
,, ,, Bruising	373 lbs.
,, ,, Bone Taint	148 lbs.
,, ,, Ill Bleeding	207 lbs.

SHEEP

No. of Whole Carcases and Organs ...	Emaciation, 2; Injury and ill bleeding, 1.
,, ,, Plucks	Flukes, 94; Pleurisy, 3; Abscesses, 7.
,, ,, Lungs	Pleurisy, 1.
,, ,, Heads	Septic Sores, 2.
,, ,, Stomachs and Intestines ...	Abscesses, 1.

Weight of Mutton Condemned

Because of disease	149 lbs.
,, ,, Bruising	12 lbs.
,, ,, Injury and ill bled condition ...	62 lbs.
,, ,, Emaciation	82 lbs.

PIGS

Whole Carcases and Organs ... ... Tuberculosis, 1.

Weight of Pork Condemned

Because of disease	226 lbs.
,, ,, Bruising	12

IMPORTED FOODS CONDEMNED AT SLAUGHTER HOUSE

Beef—Bone Taint	230 lbs.
Corned Beef—36 tins	211 lbs.

OTHER FOODS EXAMINED AND FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Black Pudding ...	1 tin
Pork Brawn ...	30 tins
Patie de Foie ...	2 ,,
Luncheon Meat ...	102 ,,
Canned Corned Beef	16 ,,
Minced Beef Loaf	7 ,,
Meat and Gravy ...	5 ,,
Tongue	2 ,,
Pork	4 ,,
Stewed Steak ...	4 ,,
Steak and Kidney Pies	2 doz
Ham	2 tins
Uncooked Ham ...	25½ lbs
Rabbit	1 tin
Soup	21 tins
Crawfish	6 ,,
Salmon	13 ,,
Pilchards ...	2 ,,
Mussels	40 ,,
Fish Paste ...	12 ,,
Crab Meat ...	2 ,,
Tomatoes ...	24 ,,
Tomato Juice ...	8 ,,
Peas	31 ,,
Beans	38 ,,
Beetroot	27 jars

Mixed Vegetables	1 tin
Asparagus ...	1 ,,
Spaghetti	1 ,,
Mayonnaise ...	124 jars
Salad Cream ...	47 jars
Plums	48 tins
Pears	2 tins
Apricots	1 tin
Grape Fruit Juice	7 tins
Oranges	2 tins
Orange Cordial ...	3½ doz. bottles
Peaches	6 tins
Grapes	3 tins
Damsons	1 tin
Stewed Apples ...	1 tin
Apples	6 boxes
Evaporated Milk	116 tins
Cheese	15½ lbs.
Custard Powder ...	1 tin
Golden Syrup ...	1 tin
Chocolate ...	11 bars
Jellies	31 doz.
Semolina Pudding	2 pkts.
Baby Food ...	3 tins
Cough Mixture ...	5½ doz. bottles